the wooded canyons in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. I have taken it in the following southern California localities: Elysian Park, Los Angeles; Arroyo Seco Canyon, Millard Canyon and Santa Anita Canyon, San Gabriel Mountains, Los Angeles County; Santa Ana Canyon, Black Star Canyon, Silverado Canyon and Trabuco Canyon, Santa Ana Mountains, Orange County.

Southern California specimens are somewhat darker along the dorsal area than specimens I have seen from the San Francisco Bay region but they have the characteristic markings on the sides and the milky white sole. Internally the structures agree with descriptions of the northern specimens.

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## *BURCHIA*, A NEW GENUS OF TURRIDS

By PAUL BARTSCH

Thanks to the kind offices of Mr. Thomas A. Burch of Redondo Beach, California, I have been able to examine the animal of paratypes of the mollusks that he described (Nautilus, vol. 52, 1938, pp. 21–22) as *Pseudomelatoma semiinflata redondoensis*, dredged by him in 25 fathoms on gravel bottom off Redondo Beach. The placing of this mollusk was quite puzzling. In shell characters it suggests the African *Clionella*, whose type is *Buccinum sinuatum* Born. The radular structures, however, quite remove this from that relationship, for *Clionella* has a rachidian tooth as well as Y-shaped marginals, which places it in the subfamily Clavatulinae. Burch's mollusk, on the other hand, shows not a trace of a rachidian tooth, but possesses Y-shaped marginals only, a character that places it in the subfamily Turrinae. Since there is no genus in this subfamily to which *redondoensis* may be referred, I here propose for it the name:

Burchia, new genus

Shell large, turrited, covered by a strong periostracum. Nuclear whorls small (badly eroded in all our specimens). Postnuclear whorls with a concave sinal area which extends over the posterior third of the turns. The anterior two-thirds are convex

and crossed by strong, low, broad, retractively slanting axial ribs which evanesce on the base. The sinal area shows a few incised spiral lines, while the entire rest of the surface bears feeble, rather distantly spaced, spiral threads which become intensified on the base and columella. Suture well impressed. Base moderately rounded. Columella short and stout. The aperture is ovate. The outer lip with a deep posterior V-shaped sinus below the summit; anterior canal rather broad; inner lip reflected over the columella and parietal wall as a heavy callus which may be somewhat thickened at the posterior angle of the aperture. Operculum small, oval, with a low ridge on the right side and apical nucleus, marked on the outside by concentric lines of growth. Radula with Y-shaped marginals only.

Type: *Burchia redondoensis* (Burch) (= *Pseudomelatoma semiinflata redondoensis* Burch).

Here I am likewise placing *Burchia clionella* (Dall) (= *Leucosyrinx ? clionella* Dall) described in 1908 in the Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, volume 43, page 270. The type, U.S.N.M. No. 123125, of this species was dredged by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries steamer *Albatross* at station 3394 in the Gulf of Panama in 511 fathoms. An additional series of specimens, U.S.N.M. No. 97069, was dredged by the *Albatross* at station 2792 off Manta, Ecuador, in 401 fathoms. These specimens agree in radular characters as well as shell appearance with Burch's species.

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## TAXONOMIC HEADACHES

By PAUL BARTSCH

"The Sphaeriidae, a Preliminary Survey," Brooks and Herrington, Nautilus, vol. 57, pp. 93–97, is most interesting and I hope as the title indicates will result in their preparation of a summary volume upon this family.

Shortly after coming to Washington, almost a half century ago, we had a visit from Dr. Sterki, and the two of us in our leisure hours combed the streams about the nation's capital for fresh-water mollusks. This gave me an excellent opportunity of becoming acquainted not only with Sterki as the man (a lovable character) but his wide knowledge as a field naturalist and a laboratory worker. His knowledge was not confined to Mol-